(घ) यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण है?

वाणिज्य मंत्रालय में उप मंत्री (श्री सलमान खुर्शीद): (क) जी नहीं।

(ख) से (घ) बहुत अधिक खपत वाली कुछ मदों को छोड़कर कृषि-उत्पादों के निर्यात पर कोई प्रतिबन्ध नहीं है। वास्तव में सरकार कृषि उत्पादों का निर्यात बढ़ाना चाहती है और इसके लिए कई प्रोत्साहन दिए गए हैं।

Prime Minister's assurance regarding export of non-Basmati Rice

50. SHRI JAGESH DESAI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Prime Minister has assured that Non-Basmati rice will not be exported; and

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any steps to implement this decision?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED) : (a) and (b) The export of non-basmati rice is subject to a ceiling fixed by the Govt. The ceiling initially fixed for 1991-92 was 10 lakh MTs. It was subsequently reduced to 7 lakh MTs. The Prime Minister had assured that the exports in the current .fiscal year would not be allowed to exceed 7 lakh. MTs. Action has been taken in accordance with this assurance.

Restrictions on the Import of Foreign Publications

51. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) wheth«r it is a fact that Government have removed all the restrictions on import of foreign publications in India; and

(b) if so, what are the types of books which Government propose to import for the benefit of the people of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) No, Sir, Import of foreign editions of books for which editions of authorised Indian reprints are available is not allowed. Likewise, foreign reprints of Indian publications is also not permissible without specific prior approval by the Government. Import of unauthorised reprints of books published abroad is also not allowed.

(b) Import of Educational, Scientific and Technical books is allowed under Open General Licence by the following:—

(i) Universities including deemed Universities and recognised educational and research institutions.

(ii) Public, National and State Libraries.

(iii) Institutions of higher learning.

(iv) Recognised booksellers having a minimum annual sales turnover of Rs. 10 lakhs.

(v) Research & Development units of Industrial Establishments.

(vi) Professionals like Scientists, doctors, engineers University professors, advocates Chartered Accountants etc. for their own professional use provided the c.i.f. value of imports by them shall not exceed Rs. 10,000/- in a financial year.

Educational, Scientific and Technical journals as well as news magazines and news papers are allowed for import under Open General Licence by all persons.

Import Licences are also granted to dealers of books for import of fiction and other books on the basis of 10% of purchase turnover.

Pre-conditions in application of Super 301 Law on India

52. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY :
SHRI N. E. BALARAM:
SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to refer to Unstarred Question 381 given in Rajya Sabha on 26th November, 1991 and state :

(a) whether the Bush Administration has laid down precondition for taking India off the list of •priority countries (identified under the Super 301 of State Law); and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE

MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b) On 26th April, 1991, the United States Trade Representative (USTR) designated India as a priority foreign country under the Special 301 provisions of the US trade legislation on grounds of perceived deficiencies in India's Patent law, trademark and copyright regimes and the enforcement of intellectual property law. The United States also represented that access for US motion pictures was restricted through quotas, fees and other barriers. The USTR has to make a determination by 26 February, 1992 on whether in terms of its law such acts, policies and practices are unreasonable and burden or restrict US commerce, and, if so, what responsive action should be taken by the United States.

Government are satisfied that our laws relating to trademarks and copyright, together with some amendments proposed to the copyright Act are adequate. A decision has also been taken to improve market access for motion pictures and videos. As far as the issue of patents is concerned, attention of the United States has been drawn to the fact that this is the subject of multilateral negotiations, which have yet to be concluded. Govt, of India has engaged in bilateral consultations with the United States in order, to dissuade them from taking any unilateral retaliatory action.

National Consensus on the Dunkel's Proposal of GATT

53. SHRI PRABHAKAR B. KORE :
PROF. I.G. SANADI :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any attempts to find a national consensus on the Dunkel's proposal of GATT;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof, indicating Government's aims and view on patents, publications and farm products, etc.;

(c) whether Government are also under heavy pressure under super 301 Clause;

(d) if so, how these onslaughts and dangers to Indian economy are being met; and

(e) whether Government will issue a White Paper on the subject for public education?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b) Government have been holding consultations on the Dunkel proposals with a wide cross-section of the public, including economists, opinion makers and representatives of political parties. Views have been expressed both in support of and against the proposals contained in the Dunkel Text. These are being examined.

(c) Under the Special 301 provisions of the US trade legislation, the United States has sought changes in the provisions of our laws on intellectual property, particularly in respect of patents.

(d) Government have been exploring all options'to ensure that India's national interests are safeguarded. Once the stand in respect of the Dunkel proposals is finalised, Government will participate in further negotiations in Geneva to safeguard our interests.

(e) No, Sir.

Negotiations with China on the Export of F.C.V. Tobacco

54. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that any negotiations took place to restore F.C.V. Tobacco export of China; and

(b) if so, what are the details and with what effect?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED) : (a) and (b) During India-China trade talks, the issue of improving exports of tobacco to China was generally discussed. The Chinese side had reacted positively to the suggestion.